# BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

BEN REILLY
DIED
A
HERO

BORN 19
DIED 20

DAVID
SLINEY
OLIVEIRA
ROSENBERG

## DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

MARVEL

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Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of **SPIDER-MAN**. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as **BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER!**

Following a misguided turn as a super villain, BEN REILLY has made a home for himself in Las Vegas and become the SCARLET SPIDER once more.

In an effort to heal his damaged soul and avoid eternal damnation, Ben has been working to cure ABIGAIL MERCURY, daughter of casino magnate CASSANDRA MERCURY, of a rare disease. His efforts have been met with little success, a fact that has caused Ben further consternation and made him reckless and aggressive...

Meanwhile, KAINE PARKER, another clone of Peter Parker and the other hero bearing the Scarlet Spider moniker, has kept a close eye on Ben, intervening in his super-heroics at times and cleaning up his messes at others...

PORK CHOP'S
STEAK
Stay Ready

SLATE! GOOD. I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.

YEAH? WHAT?

A HACKER.

EXCUSE ME?

SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT HACKING COMPUTERS. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE?

YEAH. *ME.*

C'MON, I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE.

YOU THINK THE DIVA JUST KEEPS ME AROUND FOR MY PRETTY FACE?

GOOD. I NEED YOUR HELP.

WITH WHAT?

I NEED YOU TO BREAK INTO THE COMPUTER AT NAVAL AIR BASE FALLON.

WHY?

I NEED YOU TO FIND SOMEBODY.

MERCURY TOWERS

SO WHO THE HELL IS SHELDON SANDERS, ANYWAY?

HE'S A RESEARCHER WHO WAS DOING WORK ON HOW TO CURE THE DISEASE ABIGAIL'S GOT.

REALLY?

YEAH, REALLY. BUT I CAN'T GET HIM INTERESTED IN TREATING ABBY. HE STOPPED ANSWERING MY EMAILS, TOO.

SO I'M PLANNING TO GO PAY HIM A VISIT.

YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW UP UNANNOUNCED TO A *NAVAL BASE?*

THAT'S THE PLAN. BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHERE ON THE BASE HE IS.

*UH-HUH.*

AND HOW EXACTLY ARE YOU GONNA GET TO HIM?

I CAN BE VERY SNEAKY.

GOT HIM. HIS OFFICE IS IN BUILDING E, SECOND FLOOR.

PERFECT.

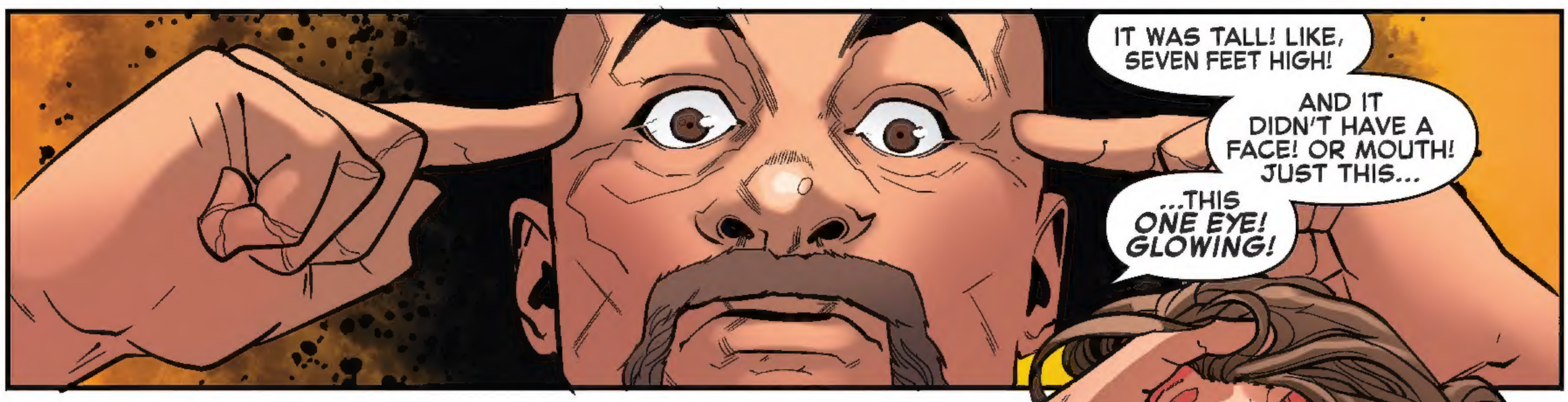
STILL WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU'LL GET TO HIM.

I GOT WAYS.

Ve as Veteran's Center
HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAP!

THEY'RE BACK! ONE OF THOSE DEMON THINGS!

LESTER, WHAT'S WRONG?! CALM DOWN!
YOU DIDN'T SEE IT!
SEE WHAT?


IT WAS TALL! LIKE, SEVEN FEET HIGH!
AND IT DIDN'T HAVE A FACE! OR MOUTH! JUST THIS...
...THIS ONE EYE! GLOWING!

OH, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

KRAAASH

GREAT. JUST TERRIFIC. A MINDLESS ONE.

IT MUST'VE BEEN HOLDING ONTO THE EXTERIOR OF THE MERCURY RISING BUILDING WHEN IT SHIFTED BACK TO THIS WORLD.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS WHERE I WISH I HAD DOCTOR STRANGE ON MY SPEED DIAL.

AW, NO...

BILLY! GET AWAY FROM IT!

NEEEEATT!

BILLY! BILLY!

CYCOPS!

THWIP

HEY!

GET AWAY, KID! NOW!

FWAAZAAAAK

WHOA!

OW!

LITTLE BRAT!

ARRHHH!

KRUNK

SON OF A--!

I AM *NEVER* HAVING KIDS.

BILLY! GET AWAY FROM IT, RIGHT NOW!
SPIDER-MAN, SAVE HIM!
SAVE HIM?! HE JUST KICKED ME IN THE--
SAVE HIM!
FINE. I WAS GOING TO ANYWAY. JUST NEED A MOMENT TO RECOVER.
WAIT! HOLD IT!
WHAT?!
DON'T DO ANYTHING!
BUT IT'LL KILL HIM!
I DON'T THINK SO.
SUPER HERO, MOMMY!
OH, NO.

OH GOD. HE THINKS IT'S *THE THING.*

LET'S GO SAVE THE CITY!

O...OKAY. UH...BILLY...

I'M GONNA NEED YOU COME DOWN OFF THE ROCK MONSTER, NOW.

LOOK AT YOUR MOTHER. SHE'S REALLY WORRIED.

GO 'WAY.

BILLY... YOUR MOM WANTS YOU BACK, SO IT'D PROBABLY BE BEST IF--

MAKE HIM GO 'WAY.

WHOA! HOLD ON A MIN--

ZWAAKOWWW

KRUUUUNCH

UNNNHHH...

THIS SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM AT ALL. HE TOLD HIMSELF WITH MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.

Naval Base Fallon

DID THEY ENJOY THEIR SHORE LEAVE?

MAYBE A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

IN THE NAAAVY...♫

♫ YES, YOU CAN SAIL THE SEVEN SEEEAS... ♫

GO AHEAD.

OKAY, NOW I'VE GOTTA MOVE.

WHOOOOHEEEE!

GOD, WHAT A WEEKEND.

HOME SWEET HOME...

HUH?

THWIP

WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME F--?

THWIP

MMMFFF!

THAT SHOULD PUT HIM OUT FOR A WHILE.

NOW JUST HAVE TO FIND...

AH. EXCELLENT.

SOMETIMES LIFE REALLY IS EASY

WHERE IS HE WHERE IS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| E 239 | Cyntha Willis | E 246 | Paul Kelleher |
| E 240 | Miguel Andre | E 247 | David Neville |
| E 241 | Rebecca Smith | E 248 | Christopher Weldon |
| E 242 | Ricardo Lee | E 249 | Conal Martin |
| E 243 | Fran Summers | E 250 | Stephen Guiney |
| E 244 | Aidan Davids | E 251 | Sheldon Sanders |
| E 245 | Seamus Rooney | E 252 | Jennifer Con |

PERFECT

SPIDER-MAN! SPIDER-MAN, WAKE UP!

NOT SPIDER-MAN. SCARLET SPIDER.

I DON'T CARE!

THAT...THAT *THING* TOOK MY SON THAT WAY!

THAT *THING* IS A MINDLESS ONE. NASTY FELLAS.

WHAT DOES IT WANT WITH *BILLY?!*

MINDLESS ONES DON'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS ORDERED TO BY A SUPERIOR MIND.

THIS ONE WAS CUT OFF FROM HOME. IT WAS EFFECTIVELY A BLANK SLATE.

AND NOW IT'S...I DUNNO... *BONDED* WITH YOUR SON.

IT WON'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS BILLY TELLS IT TO...

...OR IF IT'S ATTACKED.

CAN... CAN YOU BEAT IT?

OH, SURE. NO PROBLEM.

AS LONG AS NO ONE ELSE ATTACKS IT, AND I CAN TALK BILLY INTO ORDERING IT TO SURRENDER.

EASY.

OH, HOLY CRAP.

THIS IS BAD. THE ONLY THING THAT COULD MAKE IT WORSE IS--

MAKE THEM GO AWAY.

"YEAH. THAT WAS IT."

DOCTOR SANDERS?

YES.

MY NAME IS BEN. I'M THE ONE WHO WROTE YOU ABOUT THE CHILD, ABIGAIL.

"ABIGAIL"? I'M SORRY, I CAN'T SAY I RECALL HER.

THE LITTLE GIRL WHO'S DYING OF CROOKS SYNDROME! WE EXCHANGED EMAILS--

I DON'T HANDLE MY EMAILS. I'VE NO TIME FOR SUCH THINGS. THAT WAS MY ASSISTANT, KARL.

KARL? WELL, KARL SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO HELP A YOUNG DYING GIRL. CAN I ASSUME THAT'S INCORRECT?

OF COURSE THAT'S INCORRECT. I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN MAKING MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS THAT...

KARL! COME OUT HERE, PLEASE.

WHAT'S UP, SHELDON?

KARL, THIS GENTLEMAN HAS SAID THAT--

ARE...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE WHITE AS A GHOST.

SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING NUTS!

HE SAID WHAT?

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, SIR, WHY DON'T WE--

THWIIIP

THWIIIP

WHAT IN THE--?

SPIDER-MAN! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO LEAVE ME ALONE, COULD YOU?

KARL? WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING AB--?

WE GOTTA GO. RIGHT NOW.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S--

SHELDON, YOU *IDIOT!* I CAME HERE TO FIND A CURE FOR MY OWN PROBLEMS!

BUT NO, YOU HAD TO STICK WITH THE TRIVIAL IDIOCIES THE NAVY KEPT THROWING AT YOU!

AND NOW WE'RE OUT OF TIME!

BUT THIS IS THE LAST PLAN OF MINE YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN, SPIDER-MAN!

OH...MY GOD...

SAURON. PERFECT. JUST PERFECT.

BAL

SAURON. GREAT. *JUST GREAT*. ALL THE LABS IN THE WORLD AND I WALK INTO THE ONE WITH THE MAD SCIENTIST DINOSAUR WITH A VENDETTA AGAINST SPIDER-MAN. THANKS A LOT, PETER.

OH MY G--

WH-WHERE DID YOU GET THAT MASK?

GET OUT, SANDERS.

I DON'T...

NEED TO GET SANDERS TO SAFETY.

GET OUT!

IF HE DIES...

...SO DOES ABIGAIL

CRAP! HE BREATHES *FLAME?!* SINCE WHEN CAN HE DO *THAT?!**

*SINCE *NEW AVENGERS (VOL. 1) #6*, TRUE BELIEVERS! --EDITOR

YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM ME, SPIDER-MAN?

IT'S THE *SCARLET SPIDER*, ACTUALLY.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL YOURSELF! YOU'LL NEVER THREATEN ME AGAIN.

HOW DID YOU ***TRANSFORM***, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TO ABSORB A MUTANT'S POWER TO CHANGE.

ONCE UPON A TIME, YES. BUT I'VE LEARNED HOW TO STORE UP THE ENERGY LIKE A BATTERY!

NICE. BETTER CHANGE YOUR NAME TO EVEREADY.

NOW HOW ABOUT YOU ***SHUT UP...***

***...WHILE I CLOBBER YOU.***

KRAKOOM

BETTER GET WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD.

HUNNNF! HUNNNFFF!

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PICK UP THE PACE, DOC.

MY GOD!

NOPE, YOU'VE GOT ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE, SORRY.

UH-OH.

"UH-OH" WHAT?!

THAT.

FWOOOSH

TIME TO GO.

I'M GOING TO BE SICK!

SO HELP ME, IF YOU PUKE ON MY SUIT, I'LL LET HIM *FRY* YOU.

WHY ARE YOU HOLDING ON TO HIM, SHELDON?

HE'S A *MONSTER!* HE'S GOING TO DEVOUR YOU.

DE-DEVOUR ME?

DOC, WHAT'S WRONG?

ARRRHHHH!

DOC, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD--!

GET AWAY! GET AWAY!

GOT YOU NOW.

DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS.

NOBODY SHOOT! WE DON'T WANT TO HIT THE KID!

ME N' MY NEW FRIEND ARE GONNA SAVE THE CITY!

LIKE *SUPER HEROES!*

THEY'RE IN OUR WAY, TELL 'EM TO MOVE.

CRIPES! GET BACK! EVERYONE GET BA--!

HUH?

NO! NO!

OPEN FIRE!

HELP! HELP!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

ZWAAAKOWWWW

OH GOD.

BLAKOOOOOM

KRACK

THIS IS JUST NOT MY DAY.

LET ME GO!

HE'S BAD! PUNISH HIM!

THIS IS THE STUPIDEST WAY TO DIE I CAN THINK OF.

TRYING TO HELP A KID WHO THINKS A *MINDLESS ONE* IS A *SUPER HERO.*

SPLUTCH

HUH?

THWIP

ZWWAAAAAAAAKK

NOOOOO!

C'MERE, KID.

THOOM

EVERYONE, STAND BACK. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

GENTLEMEN, IF YOU PLEASE...

MOMMY! THEY HURT MY FRIEND!

OH GOD, YOU ARE IN *SO* MUCH TROUBLE, BILLY.

UH...*WHO* ARE YOU, EXACTLY?

MY NAME IS NAKANO.

AND YOU'RE FROM...?

ELSEWHERE.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT THING?

AWAY.

YOU'RE NOT BEING ESPECIALLY SPECIFIC.

NOT TRYING TO BE.

NOW HOLD ON, LADY! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE THAT CREATURE OUT OF HERE!

PRETTY SURE I CAN.

PULL YOUR PEOPLE BACK, PLEASE.

UH, OKAY, RIGHT AWAY, MA'AM.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN TIME-OUT UNTIL YOU'RE IN COLLEGE, MISTER.

THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY.

THANK YOU--W-WAIT. WHERE DID THAT SCARLET SPIDER-MAN GO?

*OHHHH,* NO, "NAKANO." YOU DON'T GET AWAY THAT EASY.

NAVAL AIR FORCE BASE FALLON.

DAMMIT. HE MUST'VE *HYPNOTIZED* SHELDON INTO THINKING I WAS SOME KIND OF MONSTER.

FORTUNATELY, HE'D HAVE TO SEE MY EYES TO MESS WITH MY MIND.

THANK GOD FOR MY MASK.

NOW IF I CAN JUST PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN--

NYAAARRHH!

*HMM.* NOT AN ESPECIALLY ***POTENT*** LIFE FORCE, MY DEAR SPIDER.

IT TASTES... I'M NOT SURE... ***OVERUSED*** SOMEHOW.

*NNNN...*

I CAN'T ABSORB YOUR POWERS BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT.

PROBABLY BEST TO JUST DISPOSE OF YOU NOW.

GOODBYE, SCARLET SPIDER.

NO! DON--

SPLUCH

ARRRHH!

NO! SANDERS!

YOU SON OF A--

THUUUMP

WAAAAM

FWOOOSH

SOONER OR LATER, HE'S GONNA FRY ME GOOD

IF ONLY I COULD FI-

OH PLEASE OH PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

YES!

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN OUTRUN ME, WEB-SHOOTER?

I HAVE *WINGS*, YOU IDIOT!

YOU KNOW, IT'S A SHAME, SPIDER. I SENSE WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU'D LIKE TO ADMIT.

BUT THERE'S NO USE DWELLING ON IT NOW.

PLEASE LET THIS WORK. I MEAN, IT DID IN *JAWS*.

*URKH?!*

*UNFFF! UNNNFFFFFF!*

GOTTA GET YOU HELP.

# ВЗРЫВ

WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT THE HELL *HAPPENED?!*

MAYBE WE WERE *BOMBED!*

WAS ANYONE IN THE BUILDING?!

AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT? *SHOULDN'T* HAVE BEEN!

WHICH WAY IS THE MEDICAL CENTER, DOC?!

OH GOD, DON'T TELL ME THAT *WAS* THE MEDICAL CENTER!

ST-STOP RUNNING.

I GOTTA GET YOU TO--

NOT... GONNA MAKE IT TO...

P-PUT ME DOWN...

THE LITTLE GIRL... DYING FROM CROOK'S...

...THERE'S AN ANTIDOTE...

...MY BOSS... HAS IT...

YOUR BOSS? YOU MEAN SOMEONE IN THE NAVY?

THEY DIDN'T KNOW... NAVY DIDN'T KNOW...

I WAS A SPY...SENT HERE...TO KEEP AN EYE...ON EXPERIMENTS HERE...

A SPY? FOR WHO?

THE DIOGENES... INITIATIVE...

SIX... ONE...SILVER STREET...

BOSS CAN CURE HER... CURE...

DAMN.

DAMN. DAMN. DAMN.

DO WE HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA OF WHAT THE HELL CAUSED THIS?

NOT SO FAR, SIR. COULD TAKE WEEKS TO FIGURE IT OU--

SIR!

WE FOUND SOMEONE, SIR!

A BODY!

NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, HE'S *ALIVE*, SIR!

JUST TAKE IT EASY, SIR. YOU'RE GONNA BE FINE.

JUST BREATHE. *BREATHE.*

YOU ARE ONE LUCKY DEVIL, SIR.

LUCKIEST DEVIL...IN THE WORLD.

WHERE THE HELL ARE WE GOING?

WE'VE COMPLETELY LEFT THE CITY. WE'RE OUT IN THE SUBURBS.

I THINK WE'RE IN OLD HENDERSON NOW. THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE BUT PRIVATE HOUSES.

THIS IS NUTS! I FIGURED THIS WAS SOME GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION!

BUT WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WOULD BE OPERATING OUT OF SOMEONE'S FAMILY HOME?

THIS IS JUST MAKING NO SENSE AT ALL.

I SHOULD SEARCH AROUND THIS PLACE. SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT--

RUMBLE

WAIT. WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?

AND NOW THE WHOLE HOUSE IS SHAKING. WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS--

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

HUH?!

WHAT THE HE--?!

THOOOOM

SILVER STREET

WHERE THE DEVIL DID THIS THING LOWER ME TO?

BETTER GO INVISIBLE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT SOME STANDARD GOVERNMENT THINK TANK.

I MEAN, A HOUSE SINKING INTO THE GROUND? THAT'S JAMES BOND TERRITORY RIGHT THERE.

WE'VE STOPPED MOVING.

AND I HEAR THE SOUND OF GEARS SHIFTING...THE DOOR MUST BE OPENING...

OH GREAT. EVEN MORE DARKNESS. DID THEY FORGET TO PAY THEIR ELECTRIC BILL OR SOMETHING?

I WISH I COULD SEE SOMETHING. *ANYTHING.*

CRAP.

RRRARGHFF!

WHOA! WHAT THE HELL?!

OKAY. THE WHOLE INVISIBILITY THING ISN'T WORKING.

TIME FOR PLAN B, WHATEVER THE HELL *THAT'S* GOING TO BE.

GRRRRR!

THWIIIP

GUUURPP?!

THERE. THAT SHOULD KEEP IT BUSY FOR A FEW MOMENTS...

MMPH!

RIIIIP

GREAT. SO MUCH FOR THAT.

BETTER GET AGGRESSIVE.

READY, SET...

WAAAM

PERFECT. NOW TO FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM.

GRRRR...

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT SMELL?

IT SMELLS LIKE...

...COTTON CANDY, I THINK.

WAIT. THAT'S NOT JUST ANY COTTON CANDY.

THAT'S THE SCENT OF THE COTTON CANDY AT *CONEY ISLAND* THAT PETER LOVED WHEN HE WAS A KID.

HE LOVED IT WHEN MAY AND BEN WOULD TAKE HIM THERE.

HOW IN THE WORLD WOULD THAT WIND UP 3,000 MILES AWAY FROM CONEY ISLAND?

WORK ROOM

"WORK ROOM." THAT SOUNDS USEFUL.

IT'D BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT KIND OF "WORK" THEY'RE DOING HERE.

HOLY...

THAT SMELL IS GETTING STRONGER. IT'S OVERWHELMING.

I'VE NEVER WANTED TO EAT COTTON CANDY SO MUCH IN MY LIFE.

THANK GOD. LIGHT'S RECEDING. BUT...

...WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?!

GRANTED.

GRANTED.

NOT GRANTED.

GRANTED.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. SUBJECT NEEDS PSYCHIATRIC COUNSELING.

NOT GRANTED. THAT WOULD BE A SIN.

GRANTED, BUT PROVISIONALLY.

AW, NOT AGAIN!

KRAK

GRANTED.

NOT GRANTED.

GRANTED, BUT WILL BE REVIEWED IN SIX MONTHS.

DUCK.

I'M SORRY?

DUCK!

ON THE FLOOR!

OH. GOT IT.

KRUUUNK

NOW STAY DOWN!

WAM WAM WAM WAM

JAB

OW! WHAT THE--?!

YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS BEING DOWN HERE.

AND LEAVE BITHRON ALONE. HE IS HARMLESS.

*HARMLESS?!* HE WANTED TO EAT ME!

DOUBTFUL. LIKELY HE JUST WANTED TO CHEW ON YOU A LITTLE.

NO THANKS. NAME'S KAINE.

NOW, GET YOUR PIGSTICKER OUT OF MY FACE AND TELL ME WHERE THE HELL I AM.

HOW DARE YOU!

NICE TRY.

BUT CLOSE DOESN'T CUT IT.

OOOFF!

TRY THAT AGAIN.

NO PROBLEM. I CAN DO THIS ALL DAY.

LOOK, YOU'VE GOT SOME MOVES, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.

BUT I'M OBVIOUSLY WAY STRONGER THAN YOU.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO...

...TO...

...WHAT WAS I... SAYING...?

THAT... THAT SPEAR OF YOURS...

IT WAS... POISONED...

IT'S NOT A SPEAR. IT'S A NAGINATA.

YOUR SUPERIOR STRENGTH IS MUCH LESS A FACTOR NOW, ISN'T IT?

YOU... CHEATED.

I MADE A TACTICAL MOVE.

...STILL... CHEATED...

HOW DARE YOU!

KRAAAK

YOU CHALLENGE MY HONOR?

NGHH...

NO ONE CHALLENGES MY HONOR!

THAT'S ENOUGH, NAKANO.

AS YOU WISH.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE INTRUDER?

PUT HIM SOMEWHERE SECURE.

I SUSPECT HE'S GOING TO HAVE COMPANY QUITE SOON.

MEANWHILE, A THOUSAND FEET STRAIGHT UP...

THIS IS IT.

YOU SURE?

YUP. 61 SILVER STREET.

YOU NEED ME TO WAIT?

TAXI

NO, THAT'S FINE. BUT GIMME YOUR BUSINESS CARD SO I CAN CALL YOU.

YOU DON'T TRUST UBER?

I DON'T TRUST ANYBODY.

THAT'S A HELL OF A WAY TO LIVE.

SAVES YOU FROM BEING DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY LET YOU DOWN.

OKAY. BETTER GET THIS STARTED.

LAST TIME I BUSTED IN SOMEONE'S DOOR UNANNOUNCED, I FORCED *MYSTERIO* BACK INTO A LIFE OF CRIME.

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY *KNOCKING* THIS TIME...

KNOCK KNOCK

PENNY.

KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK

PENNY.

KNOCK

HI.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

YOU! JEZEBEL!

OOOFF!

YOU KIDNAPPED MY AUNT! HELD HER FOR RANSOM!

I KNOW! I WAS THERE!

YOUR SPY, SHELDON SANDERS, SAID HIS BOSS COULD CURE A GIRL DYING OF CROOK'S DISEASE!

OOOF!

WUMF

TELL ME HOW!

YOU LITTLE--

OH NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT GONNA KNOCK ME ACROSS THE ROOM AGAIN WITH YOUR BIG-GIRL VOICE.

NOW TALK!

OU?

WHAT?

OUDITAL WFMMUTHCFRDY IDJIT?

WHAT?

HOW DO I TALK WITH MY MOUTH COVERED, YOU IDIOT?

YEAH, OKAY, THAT'S...

THAT ONE'S ON ME.

HOW GENEROUS.

NOW WHERE'S SANDERS' BOSS?

RIGHT HERE.

NAME'S GABRIEL.

LIKE THE ANGEL?

NOT LIKE.

WHAT, YOU'RE THE ACTUAL ANGEL?

THAT'S *ONE* NAME FOR WHAT WE ARE, YES.

PARDON MY SKEPTICISM, BUT...YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE AN ANGEL.

HOW ABOUT NOW?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MAN, I GOTTA INTRODUCE YOU TO *DEATH*. SHE DID THE SAME THING TO ME.

I JUST NEED A MOMENT TO...TRY AND *ACCEPT* THIS.

IN A WORLD WITH MEPHISTO AND THE SON OF SATAN, DOES IT NOT MAKE SENSE THAT THERE WOULD BE EQUAL FORCES ON THE SIDE OF *JUSTICE?*

BUT IF YOU'RE AN ANGEL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY AREN'T YOU...Y'KNOW...UP THERE?

THAT IS MERELY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN *CALLED*--A NAME THAT PROVIDES AN EASY EXPLANATION FOR THE NEW RECRUITS WHEN THEY FIND THEMSELVES HERE.

*RECRUITS?*

SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED WHO MAY YET DO SOME GOOD IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN WHAT'S *RIGHT*, WHY'D YOU *KIDNAP MY AUNT?*

A NECESSARY BIT OF UNPLEASANTNESS TO PROPERLY MOTIVATE YOU, BEN.

HUH?

THERE WERE DEMONS BESIEGING LAS VEGAS, AND YOU FOUND YOURSELF HEMMING AND HAWING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD OR EVEN *SHOULD* TRY TO SAVE THE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE CITY.

OY.

WE MADE THAT CHOICE CONSIDERABLY *EASIER* FOR YOU, NO? EVEN IF YOU *DO* DISAGREE WITH OUR METHODS.

SPEAKING OF INNOCENT LIVES--SANDERS TOLD HIM TO COME HERE BECAUSE YOU CAN HEAL THE GIRL.

ABIGAIL?

RIGHT.

YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?

I KNOW ABOUT EVERYONE. SORT OF COMES WITH THE KIT.

AND... CAN YOU HEAL HER?

I CANNOT...

...BUT THIS CAN.

A TUBE OF MY BLOOD.

INJECT IT INTO HER AND IT WILL CURE HER IMMEDIATELY.

AND WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR IT? WHAT'S THE PRICE? WHAT QUEST DO I HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH? WHO DO I HAVE TO BEAT OR KILL?

OH FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.

JUST TAKE IT, YOU SCHMUCK.

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TAKE WHAT'S IN THE CLOSET WITH YOU, TOO.

THIS CLOSET?

OH.

HEY, KAINE. HOW'S IT HANGING?

SHUT UP.

CONSIDER IT A GIFT FROM THE *DIOGENES INITIATIVE.*

PERHAPS WE WILL TALK AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

GOODBYE.

POIT!

WHAT THE--?!

KRUUUNCH

GREAT JUST GREAT

YOU ARE SO GETTING A BILL FOR THIS! THIS CAB'S ONLY A YEAR OLD!

HEY, I DIDN'T DRIVE THE THING INTO A LAMPPOST.

YOU APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE!

ARE YOU NUTS? YOU PULLED OVER AND PICKED ME UP.

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! YOU TWO, IT WAS LIKE, POOF, YOU GUYS WERE JUST THERE!

US TWO? YOU ONLY PICKED UP ME.

WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY?!

WHAT GUY?

THAT--

THE HELL?

WHERE... WHERE DID HE...?

THAT'S IT! GET THE HELL OUT OF MY CAB!

FINE, FINE! SHEESH.

CASINO MANHATTAN

WHAT THE HELL AM I GOING TO TELL VINCE? HE'S GONNA KILL ME. HE...

HEY! YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME THE MONEY THAT IT'LL TAKE TO FIX THIS RIGHT NOW!

AND IF YOU DON'T, I'M TAKING IT OUTTA YOUR--

--YOUR...

WHAT THE--?

WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?

SO SUPPOSEDLY I HAVE ABIGAIL'S CURE IN MY POCKET.

BLOOD OF AN ANGEL. WHY NOT?

ASSUMING IT WORKS... ASSUMING I CURE HER...

ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?

DO WHAT?

KILL ME.

THAT'S WHAT YOU SWORE. YOU'D GIVE ME TIME TO CURE HER, BUT WHEN I DID, THEN YOU'D KILL ME.

WILL YOU?

SHOWGIRLS
CASINO
...
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW? MR. "HAS ALL THE ANSWERS" KAINE DOESN'T KNOW?
I AM SHOCKED! SHOCKED, I TELL YOU! THIS UPENDS MY ENTIRE BELIEF OF REALIT--
OH, SHUT UP.
WE GOING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR?
MERCURY TOWERS
GREAT IDEA. TWO SUPER HEROES STROLLING IN WON'T CAUSE ANY ALARM.
YOU COULD SWITCH BACK TO YOUR STREET CLOTHES AND I CAN TURN INVISIBLE.
MUCH SIMPLER TO HEAD FOR THE ROOF. WE JUST TAKE THE STAIRWAY DOWN.
YEAH, THAT WOULD BE EASIER.
YOU ADMIT I HAD A GOOD IDEA?
EVEN A STOPPED CLOCK, ET CETERA.

IT'S JUST... YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A HELL OF A LOT SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

***DEATH*** AND ***DAMNATION*** AND SO MUCH ELSE...

AND YOU'VE BEEN...YOU'VE BEEN TRYING SO DAMN HARD.

EVEN WHEN YOUR WERE BRINGING PEOPLE BACK FROM THE ***DEAD***, YOU WERE ***TRYING.***

YOU'RE ON THIS JOURNEY...

...AND YOU'VE GOT ME INTERESTED.

I WANT TO SEE HOW IT SHAKES OUT.

WE'RE KIND OF ***BROTHERS***, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M KIND OF ***ROOTING*** FOR YOU.

BE CAREFUL. HE'S COMING.

HUH?

AUNT JUNE?

I JUST REMEMBERED HE SAID TO TELL YOU. HE'S COMING.

WHO IS?

THE... THE...

OHHHH... DAMMIT!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?

SENIOR MOMENT. BRAIN FART. WHATEVER, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'M SORRY, MS. MERCURY. SHE HAS PERHAPS HOURS LEFT.

YOU'D BEST SAY YOUR GOOD-BYES.

QUITE POSSIBLY.

CAN... CAN SHE HEAR ME?

ABBY... I'M SO SORRY. I...I DID EVERYTHING I COULD.

AND I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS: WHEN I'M FACE-TO-FACE WITH GOD...

...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE WORDS, SHE AND I.

*AHEM*

GOT A SEC FOR A VISITOR?

HOW DARE YOU COME HERE AFTER ALL YOUR *PROMISES?*

YOU'VE DONE NOTHING. *NOTHING* TO HELP ABBY.

I HAVE THE ANTIDOTE.

GET *OUT* OF HERE! GET THE HELL OUT OF MY--

GIVE IT TO HER. RIGHT NOW.

ON IT.

NOW, HOLD ON JUST ONE MINUTE!

YOU CAN'T JUST PUMP RANDOM UNTESTED MEDICATIONS INTO ABBY'S SYSTEM! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!

SHE'S DYING. YOU *SAID* SHE'S DYING. WHAT'S IT GOING TO DO, KILL HER A MINUTE OR TWO EARLIER?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

LET'S MAKE IT THE POINT.

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T BE A PARTY TO THIS.

GOOD.

OOF!

NEVER LIKED HIM ANYWAY.

SMASH

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO INTRODUCE THIS INTO HER I.V. TUBE. WE NEED TO INJECT IT DIRECTLY INTO HER.

WHAT IS IT?

AN ANGEL'S BLOOD

A CURE THAT SANDERS CAME UP WITH. IT'S EXPERIMENTAL...

BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN IT.

OKAY, ABBY. READY TO GET ALL BE--

WHAT THE HELL?

MY GOD! IS IT A SUPER VILLAIN COMING FOR YOU?!

SHE KNOWS ABOUT YOU?!

NOT NOW!

HI, MOM.

YOU LOOK GOOD.

AB...
ABBY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND YOU'RE BEN, RIGHT? YOU CALLED YOURSELF PETER, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY BEN.
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
UH... YOU TOO.
ABIGAIL? HOW...HOW DID...?
TIME MACHINE. DOCTOR DOOM MADE IT. BUT HE DIDN'T NEED IT ANYMORE SO--
OH MY GOD!

MOM, YOU NEED TO PUT ME DOWN. WE HAVE TO TALK...

...AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO *LIKE* THE WAY THIS CONVERSATION GOES.

ALL...ALL RIGHT. BUT I JUST...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW ARE YOU--?

I MEAN...TIME TRAVEL? *REALLY?* ISN'T THAT KIND OF JAMES CAMERON FOR US?

MOM...

I'M 372 YEARS OLD.

WH-WHAT?

WHAT?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

SHUT UP.

THAT THING. THAT "ANTIDOTE." IT MAKES ME *IMMORTAL.*

BUT...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

AND YET HERE I AM.

WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT FIRST.

WE JUST THOUGHT IT CURED ME. I BOUNCED OUT OF BED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, ALL SIGNS OF CROOK'S DISEASE GONE.

IT WAS A MIRACLE. WE LAUGHED. WE REJOICED. YOU EVEN DATED BEN FOR A TIME.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO--

--SO WISE, BECAUSE, Y'KNOW, WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.

I'LL JUST WAIT OVER HERE.

THEN A YEAR PASSED, AND I DIDN'T GROW. DIDN'T CHANGE. WE DIDN'T NOTICE.

BUT AFTER THREE YEARS? WE NOTICED. AFTER FIVE? WE FREAKED.

AFTER SEVEN, WE ACCEPTED IT.

AND THE YEARS WENT BY.

I'M SO SORRY, ABBY.

I SO WANTED TO SAVE YOU, AND I TURNED YOU INTO THIS... THIS...

DO YOU LOVE ME, MOM?

WHAT?

DO YOU LOVE ME?

50 YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

OF COURSE.

THEN THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

MOM?

MOM!

MOMMY?

YOU LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME. YOUR VAST EMPIRE...FIVE CASINOS AND RESORTS...

FIVE?

WHAT CAN I SAY? YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.

BUT I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF IT.

SO I LEFT.

STARTED WALKING.

THE WORLD WAS FALLING APART, YOU SEE.

"DENVER.

"WASHINGTON, DC.

"NEW YORK CITY. DIDN'T MATTER WHERE I WENT.

"THE COUNTRY WAS COMING APART. INFRASTRUCTURE COLLAPSED. THE GOVERNMENT STOPPED CARING."

THEY SPENT TOO MUCH TIME ARGUING WITH OUR FORMER ALLIES. EUROPE WAS SHREDDED. SABERS WERE RATTLED.

AND EVENTUALLY...

"...IT ENDED. THE ONLY WAY IT COULD END.

"AND I WAS STILL THERE.

"OH, I HAD SOME COMPANY FROM TIME TO TIME.

"BUT I OUTLIVED THEM ALL.

"I STOPPED EATING. DIDN'T MATTER.

"EVERY OTHER CREATURE IN THE WORLD DIED. EXCEPT ME.

"SO DO THIS FOR ME, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND."

LET ME DIE.

PLEASE?

JUST LET ME GO. SAVE ME FROM CENTURIES OF HEARTACHE.

OF WATCHING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING I EVER LOVED OR WILL LOVE LEAVE ME.

I'M BEGGING YOU.

BEN? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HONESTLY?

I'D RESPECT HER WISHES.

I FOUND THIS CURE; I CAN FIND ANOTHER.

ALL RIGHT.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

I COULD TELL THIS DIRECTLY TO BEN, OF COURSE. BUT THIS WAY IS MORE SPORTING SINCE YOUR PROGRESSIVE ALZHEIMER'S MAKES YOUR MEMORY SUSPECT.

SO BE SURE TO LET HIM KNOW...

I LOVE VEGAS

BEWARE! BEWARE--

"--OF THE FAKE TIME-TRAVELER!"

HEH. HEH HEH.

HAAAA HAHAHAAA!

HAAAAA!

WHO KNEW I WAS SUCH A *SUPERB* ACTOR!

GOOD DAY, BENJAMIN.

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BREAK A DEAL WITH *MEPHISTO* AND SUFFER NO *CONSEQUENCES* FOR IT?

OH, I'M AFRAID THAT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. POOR CHILD IS DEAD.

YOU DIDN'T INJECT HER BECAUSE YOU TOLD THE MOTHER YOU WERE GOING TO KEEP IT. *SELL IT* TO A MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY.

NOT *WASTE IT* ON HER DAUGHTER.

THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!

YES, BUT I'M AFRAID *THEY* WON'T REMEMBER IT THAT WAY. I'VE SEEN TO THAT.

BUT JUST TO SHOW MY MERCY: ILL MAKE YOU AN OFFER, BUT YOU BETTER HOLD UP YOUR END THIS TIME!

SURVIVE FOR ONE HOUR AND I'LL CHANGE THEIR MEMORIES BACK. DEAL?

FINE! DEAL!

EXCELLENT.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

GOD... FIRE IN MY CHEST...

MEPHISTO MUST BE... LOVING THIS.

KAINE AND CASSANDRA WANT TO KILL ME, AND I HAVE TO SURVIVE AN HOUR?

NOT EVEN GONNA MAKE IT A *MINUTE*...

NO

SCREW HIM. HE DOESN'T GET ME *THIS* EASY

HEY!

CRAP! SPIDER-SENSE GOING NUTS

KAINE. GOTTA BE

WHATEVER MEPHISTO'S DONE TO HIM MUST BE WHY IT CAN DETECT HIM

JUST NEED TO LET IT GUIDE ME...

PERFECT

KRUUNK

CAN'T DIVE OUT A WINDOW...BARELY STAYING CONSCIOUS...

YES. PERFECT.

IF I CAN'T GET THIS UNDER CONTROL, I'LL BLEED OUT BEFORE GETTING TO THE LOBBY.

NNGH.

C'MON, BEN... KEEP IT TOGETHER...

I SHOULD GET TO A HOSPITAL...

EXCEPT THERE I'LL BE A SITTING DUCK FOR KAINE AND CASS...

THAT'S A NO-GO...

...SO IT'S TIME TO MAKE MY OWN BAND-AID. HOPE IT HOLDS ME TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH.

MAYBE I SHOULD START WEARING KEVLAR UNDER MY--

CAN'T GET AWAY THAT EASY, BEN.

AW, NUTS.

KAINE... WAIT...YOU... YOU DON'T UNDERSTA--

I UNDERSTAND *FINE*, YOU SELFISH CREEP. WITHHOLDING A DYING GIRL'S CURE SO YOU CAN PROFITEER...

*MUH--MUH--* PHISTO--

OH, WHAT? MEPHISTO MADE YOU DO IT?

OLDEST EXCUSE IN THE BOOK.

WAAAM

DING

WAP!

OOOOFF!

YOU SON OF A--

AH AH. LANGUAGE.

EXCUSE ME. SORRY.

JUST PASSING THROUGH.

NICE ROLL.

AT LEAST I MANAGED TO LEAVE CASS AND SLATE BEHIND

I SURE DIDN'T NEED THEM ALONG MAKING THIS WORSE

FASTER, SLATE! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM!

WE WON'T, DIVA. SLAPPED A TRACKER ON HIS NECK WHEN I WAS HOLDING HIM, JUST IN CASE HE GOT AWAY.

KRAAAK

GOOD THINKING.

BLOOD LOSS MAKING ME FEEL SO FREAKING SLOW. KAINE'LL PROBABLY CATCH UP WITH ME IN NO TI--

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY, BEN.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP.

PETER WAS NEVER MUCH FOR GIVING UP.

KIND OF HAVE THAT IN *COMMON* WITH HIM.

*QUIET!* YOU DON'T EVEN GET TO SAY PETER'S NAME!

PETER.

SHUT UP!

PETER PETER PETER PETER PETER--

HE'S GETTING CLOSER. I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP AHEAD OF HIM MUCH LONGER.

AH.

A TOUR CHOPPER. PERFECT.

COME ON. COME ON...

EXCELLENT. I MAY BE BLEEDING TO DEATH INTERNALLY, BUT AT LEAST I'VE STILL GOT MY AIM.

BUH-BYE.

AW, GREAT.

ENDANGERING INNOCENTS, KAINE? THAT ISN'T LIKE YOU!

NO, I'M JUST TRYING TO SHAKE YOU LOOSE. IF ANYONE IS ENDANGERING INNOCENTS, IT'S *YOU* AS LONG AS YOU HANG ON.

THAT'S SO TYPICAL OF YOU, KAINE. ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE'S FAULT!

AS YOU CAN OBSERVE, WE ARE NOW FLYING OVER OLD LAS VEGAS-- FROM THE DAYS BEFORE THE STRIP!

IF YOU'LL LOOK TO YOUR LEFT...

...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE EXCALIBUR.

WAAAM

AND OVER ON THE RIGHT YOU CAN SEE THE PARIS HOTEL...

WUUUNK

...AND THEIR GORGEOUS MODEL OF THE EIFFEL TOWER.

THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

IF YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT INNOCENTS, NOW'S THE TIME TO LET GO!

YOU LET GO!

NOT GONNA HAPPEN!

WHOA! THE HELL--?!

AAAAAAND--

NOW!

GOT YOU!

TOLD YOU THIS ENDS TODAY!

DO YOU EVER GET *TIRED* OF YOUR OWN VOICE?!

AWESOME!

WHAT THE HELL DID THAT CRACKPOT *SPECIALIST* INJECT INTO HER?

GOD.

MERCURY RISING CASH ID.

I'M SORRY, ABIGAIL. I SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED YOU FROM THAT LUNATIC YOUR MOTHER PUT ON THIS CASE.

I LET YOU DOWN.

HELLO, HELEN? IT'S DANIEL. I'M AT MERCURY TOWERS...

YES, CASSANDRA'S GIRL. SHE'S GONE.

COULD YOU ALERT FRANK AT THE WILKERSON FUNERAL HOME?

NO, WE WON'T NEED AN AUTOPSY. IT WAS CROOKS DISEASE.

NO ONE SURVIVES TH--

*HOLY--!*

SHE'S *GONE!*

NOT THAT KIND OF GONE! I MEAN *LITERALLY* GONE! SHE'S FREAKING *VANISHED!*

THAT WOUND ISN'T LOOKING SO GOOD, BEN.

HOW WOULD IT BE--

--IF I HIT IT?!

WAAAM

ARRHHHH!

HOW ABOUT SLIGHTLY HARDER?

WAAAAAM

YAAARRRGHH!

I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

LADY DEATH TOLD ME I COULD CHANGE.

THAT IF I TRIED TO HELP OTHERS, TO LIVE RIGHT, I COULD RESTORE THAT PATHETIC, BLACKENED THING THAT'S MY SOUL.

BUT I'VE TRIED AND LOOK AT ALL THE GOOD ITS DONE ME.

KAINE WILL ***NEVER*** STOP WANTING TO KILL ME. I WAS AN ***IDIOT*** TO TELL DEATH TO BRING HIM BACK.

JUST HAVE TO SQUEEZE A LITTLE HARDER AND I CAN RIP HIS HEAD RIGHT OFF.

JUST HAVE TO--

***DAMMIT!*** WHY CAN'T I DO IT?! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?!

OOOF!

UNHHH!

THE FERRIS WHEEL FANTASTIC

YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET AWAY?!

NOT THIS TIME, BEN. NOT WITH THAT GIRL'S BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS.

I'M NO LONGER THINKING ABOUT GETTING AWAY.

I'M THINKING ABOUT WAYS TO KILL HIM.

EXCEPT IT'S NOT HIS FAULT. MEPHISTO'S SCREWED WITH HIS MEMORIES. HELL, MAYBE EVEN HIS MIND, CONSIDERING THAT CHOPPER ATTACK.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN MOST OF AN HOUR. IF I CAN JUST SURVIVE A FEW MORE MINUTES...

...THEN HE AND CASS WILL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT I JUST WANTED TO *HELP*.

ONE SIDE! MOVE! MOVE!

KAINE, LISTEN! YOUR MEMORIES... THEY'VE BEEN SCRAMBLED!

SO NOW MY BRAIN'S BEEN MESSED WITH, HUH?

YOU NEED TO *LISTEN* TO ME--IT WAS MEPHISTO!

I BROKE A DEAL WITH HIM! REMEMBER? AND HE MADE US BELIEVE THAT ABBY TRAVELED BACK IN TIME AND CONVINCED US TO LET HER DIE!

IT WAS HER MOTHER'S DECISION!

ME-MEPHISTO?

YES! THAT'S RIGHT.

HE... TRICKED US.

YES.

MY GOD. I...I REMEMBER!

I REMEMBER HOW FULL OF CRAP YOU ARE!

NO!

YES!

YEAH, THAT WORKED PERFECTLY.

GOTTA LAND RIGHT. LAST THING I NEED TO DO IS BREAK A LEG.

JUST NEED TO SLOW MYSELF A LITTLE...

PERFECT.

SLOW DOWN! I'M GETTING OUT!

I'LL COME WITH YOU!

NO! STAY HERE!

HE'S MINE!

FREEZE! DON'T MOVE A--!

GOOD.

I CAN USE THIS.

THANKS.

HAS YOUR WOUND SLOWED YOU DOWN, BEN? LET'S FIND OUT!

WHAT--

CASS!

DAMMIT! IF I DODGE, HE'LL HIT HER!

NO TIME TO--

BLAMM

DOWN!

C-CASS...

HERO
BORN 19
DIED 20

I'M...I'M OKAY.

I THOUGHT KAINE SHOT ME, BUT...I'M NOT IN PAIN ANYMORE.

I DON'T EVEN FEEL THE STAB WOUND FROM CASS.

HOLD ON. GOTTA CHECK.

YES! I'M NOT HURT!

APPARENTLY MY HEALING ABILITIES HAVE JUMPED THROUGH THE ROOF!

I DID IT! I'M ALIVE!

GUESS AGAIN.

AW, CRAP.

LAST DANCE

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I RESTORED YOUR FRIENDS' MEMORIES RIGHT AFTER YOU DIED.

WH-WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT? THE KNOWLEDGE WILL TORMENT THEM...

RIGHT. OF COURSE.

YOU'RE THE LITERAL DEVIL.

COME, BEN. IT'S TIME.

SO... I'M GOING TO HELL?

WELL, NATURALLY.

AFTER ALL...

...YOU'RE A VILLAIN.

NO! I'M NOT!

I *DIED* SAVING SOMEBODY'S LIFE! THAT SHOULD *COUNT FOR SOMETHING!*

AND JEFFREY DAHMER ONCE PULLED A DRUNK OUT OF THE WAY OF AN ONCOMING CAR.

HE STILL HOWLS BELOW.

COME NOW, BEN. IT'S ME. YOU CAN BE HONEST.

WHATEVER YOUR INTENTIONS, WHATEVER YOUR PROTESTS AND PERSONAL CRIES OF SELF-WORTH...

...YOU KNOW YOU'RE A VILLAIN. MORE...

...YOU ENJOY IT.

NO!

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

=SIGH= YOU WANT TO FIGHT? FINE.

SATISFIED?

KRAK!

LET'S HURRY IT UP. RAIN IS MOVING-- WHOAAAA...

WHAT?

YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT SOMEONE STEPPING ON YOUR GRAVE?

I'VE BEEN PATIENT WITH YOU, BEN. I COULD JUST DRAG YOU TO HELL, BUT I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE DIGNITY OF GOING ON YOUR OWN.

BUT YOU WISH TO BE FORCED? SO BE IT.

WHAT IN THE--?!

THUNDERATION. HAVEN'T SEEN A SILENT EXPLOSION LIKE THAT IN...

AH. FINALLY READY TO GO, BENJAMIN?

YES. I AM.

ДДАДДАДДАRRHHHHH!

WAAGH!

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND! SHE WAS SLEEPING SO *SOUNDLY!*

WAAAAAAAHHHHH!

IMPOSSIBLE! IMPOSSIBLE! A DEAD MORTAL BESTING ME IN PHYSICAL COMBAT?!

ENOUGH GAMES!

*TO HELL WITH YOU!*

# Ruddock

WELL?

WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?

OF COURSE.

OH, OF COURSE.

DAMNATION, I'M GETTING OLD. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IMMEDIATELY.

YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THIS MATTER.

I HAVE ALL THE SAY I WISH. IT'S NOT HIS TIME YET.

NOT HIS TIME? ARE YOU *INSANE?* IT'S HIS TIME A HUNDRED TIMES OVER!

YOU ARE NEW AT THIS GAME. I SENSE IT. FRESHLY MINTED.

YOUR KIND *ALWAYS* MAKES MISTAKES WHEN YOU ARE FIRST CONCEIVED. DRUNK WITH YOUR OWN POWER.

DO *NOT* DO WHAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING.

YOU DON'T GET TO LECTURE ME ON MY POWER.

I CAN MAKE MY OWN CHOICES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

FINE! DO WHAT YOU WISH, YOU IMBECILIC CHILD.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR IMPETUOUS ACT WILL UNLEASH UPON THE WORLD.

FOOO

I HAPPENED.

WHO IN THE HELL ARE YOU?

OH, YOU ARE SO FAR AWAY FROM THE TRUTH.

I'M *ABIGAIL*, BEN. OR AT LEAST I *WAS*.

IT...IT *WORKED?!* THE SERUM?!

A BIT BELATEDLY, BUT YES. NOW... I'M LIKE *GABRIEL*.

YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE THINGS I KNOW.

AND I'M GOING TO REWARD YOU FOR ALL YOU RISKED AND SACRIFICED TO SAVE ME.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME TO HEAVEN?

SILLY. THERE'S NO HEAVEN... AT LEAST NOT AS YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND IT. HASN'T BEEN FOR A LONG TIME.

NO, BETTER. I'M GOING TO RETURN YOU TO LIFE.

MEPHISTO ARCHITECTED YOUR DEMISE, AND IN SO DOING CIRCUMVENTED THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS. *IT IS NOT YOUR TIME, BEN.*

*NO! GOD, NO! DON'T DO IT!*

I'LL BECOME *EVIL!*

THAT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE A HERO. YOU COULD NEVER BE EVIL.

BEN, I DON'T HAVE AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF TIME TO DO THIS.

IT'S NOW OR *NEVER.*

*NEVER! NEVER! I VOTE NEVER!*

YOU'LL *THANK* ME LATER.

YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS GUY KIND OF LOOKS LIKE PETER PARKER.

THE DISGRACED *TECH GUY?* WHAT WOULD *HE* BE DOING IN VEGAS?

MAYBE HE'S ON *VACATION.*

LAST I SAW, HE WAS *BROKE.*

BUT...

DUDE, C'MON. NOT EVERY FAMOUS INVENTOR IS A SUPER HERO.

PLUS THIS GUY'S DEAD.

SUPER HEROES COME BACK TO LIFE SOMETIMES.

OH, FOR CRYING OUT--

AAAAAHHH!

HOLY #@%&!

KRUUUNCH

SKREEEEEEE

TOLDJA.

MY GOD. MY GOD. I'M EVIL

DEATH SAID IF I CAME BACK ONE MORE TIME, IT'D SHATTER MY SOUL.

SO NOW I'M...

...EVIL?

BUT I DON'T... I DON'T *FEEL* EVIL. I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT AT ALL.

MAYBE SHE WAS WRONG. MAYBE--

SO. I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST.

DID YOU THINK TO TRAP ME *FOREVER?*

***MISTY*** IS FREE, WALL-CRAWLER. THE MISTRESS OF THE MYSTIC ARTS IS FREE.

AND SHE OWES PAYBACK TO THE MAN WHO TRAPPED HER. TO THE--

KRUUUUUNCH

WHA--

OIL. NO BLOOD. OIL.

CRIPES, SHE'S A MACHINE. A FREAKING MACHINE.

MYSTERIO WANTED A DAUGHTER SO BADLY, HE *BUILT* HIMSELF ONE.

I BET SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW. SHE...

WAIT A MINUTE. I DIDN'T KNOW. AND MY FIRST MOVE WAS TO TRY TO KILL HER.

AND I DIDN'T CARE

AND IT FELT *GOOD*

MERCURY RISING CASINO.

EXCUSE ME, JUNE?

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW YOU CAN STAY HERE.

EHH?

YOU WERE IMPORTANT TO HIM FOR SOME REASON. SO THE ROOM YOU'RE LIVING IN?

YOU CAN STAY THERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

FREE FOOD, TOO.

WHY, THANK YOU, MS. MERCURY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.

NOW GO AWAY.

RIGHT.

DING!

THAT MAKE YA FEEL ANY BETTER?

IT WOULD HAVE MADE *HIM* FEEL BETTER. THAT'S ENOUGH.

GOD, SLATE, AS SOON AS THAT EVIL CREATURE RESTORED OUR MEMORIES OF WHAT ***REALLY*** HAPPENED IN THAT HOSPITAL ROOM I FELT SO ***GUILTY.***

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BEN WOULD NEVER...

DON'T START, DIVA. THIS INVOLVED SOME MEGA-LEVEL STUFF.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT HAPPENED...

I AM.

I LOST MY DAUGHTER. THAT MONSTER FOOLED US AND I LET HER DIE...

AND THEN BEN DIED BECAUSE OF IT.

DING!

HI, MOM.

I'M FEELING WAY BETTER.

ABIGAIL!

OH MY GOD!

IS THIS...IS THIS *REAL?* ARE YOU *CURED?* THIS ISN'T SOME INSANE PLAN COOKED UP BY A DEMON?! OR A TIME-TRAVELER?!

I'M...NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MOM.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS...YOU'RE BACK.

YES. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

KAINE, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

I SCREWED UP. SCREWED UP BIG.

I GOT PLAYED BY A...

NEVER MIND.

KAINE, YOU KNOW YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.

GOD, I WISH.

THAT'S WHAT HAVING FRIENDS IS ALL ABOUT. AND WE'RE, Y'KNOW, MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS.

IT WOULD BE A LOT TO EXPLAIN.

I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE--

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DO--

SPLUUUCH

STOP IT!
STOP IT!
OH MY GOD,
STOP!
STOP!

SPLUCH
SPLUCH
SPLUCH

UNNFFF!

IF YOU SURVIVE THIS, GET OUT OF VEGAS.

OTHERWISE I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING AND CUT OFF YOUR HEAD.

HOW DID IT GO, GABRIEL?

PERFECTLY, NAKANO.

JUST PERFECTLY.

HEH.
HEH HEH...

HAAAA
HAHAH!

HAHA

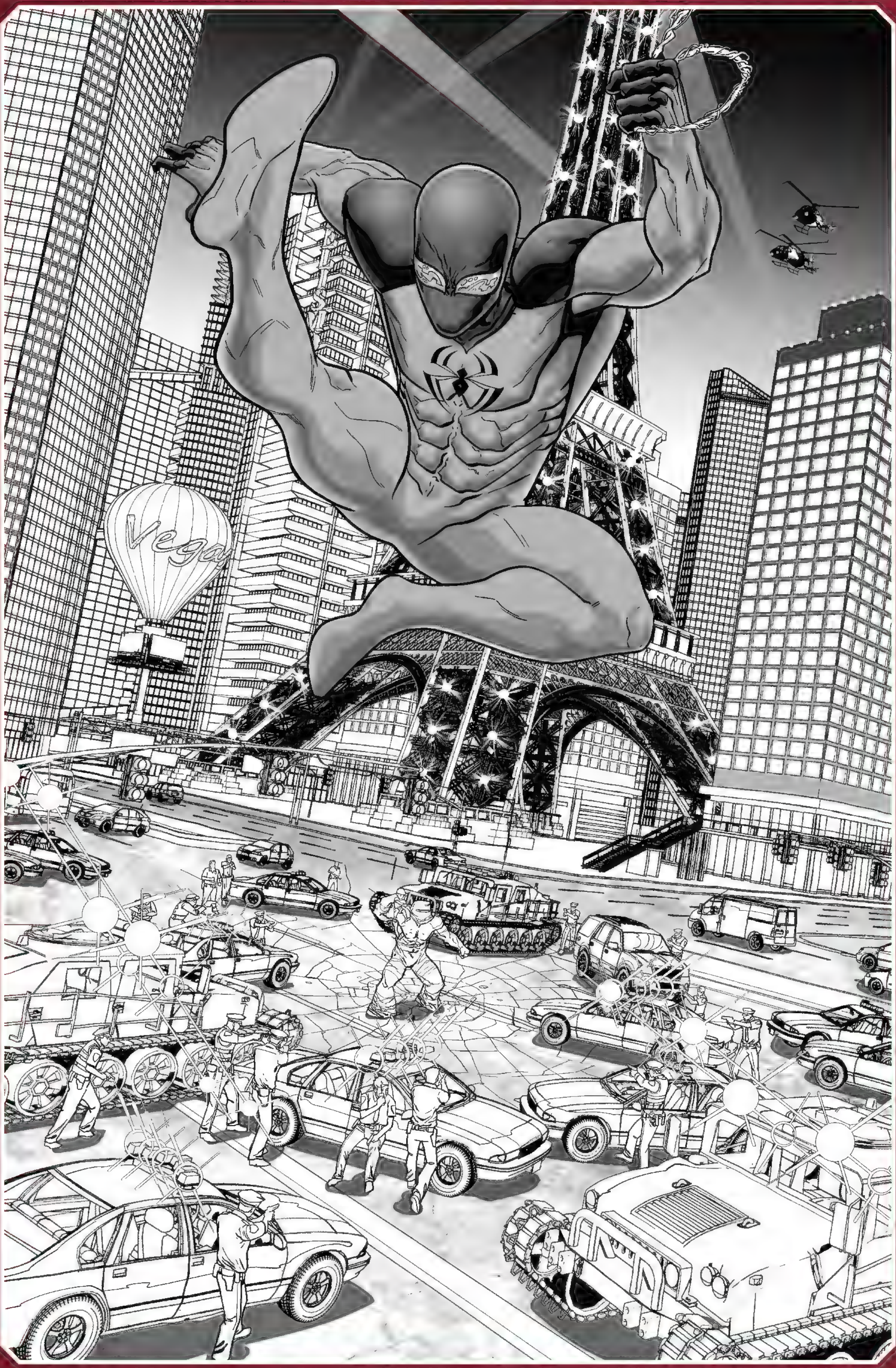
HAAA!
AHUUUCK ÷SOB÷
AHUUUKK...

...AHUUUUUUCK...

÷SOB÷

# Will Sliney

BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER #20, PAGE 16 ART



# Will Sliney

## BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER #21, PAGE 9 ART

Will Sliney

BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER #23, PAGE 3 ART

# Bruno Oliveira

BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER #25, PAGE 11 ART

# RESURRECTED HEROES ARE RUNNING AMOK!

AS THE SCARLET SPIDER, BEN REILLY may have a thing or two to say about that! But when a pack of ravenous hellhounds descends on Las Vegas, can Ben and his clone-brother Kaine keep themselves from each other's throats long enough to save the city?! Then, they say the road to Hell is paved with good intentions – and in Ben's case that may be literal! For months, his attempts to cure young Abigail Mercury's rare illness have proved fruitless – but now salvation is at hand…for a price. Will Ben find the strength to do the right thing and save Abigail – and his soul? Or will he succumb to his worst instincts and damn himself in the process?!

COLLECTING ***BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER #20-25*** –
BY PETER DAVID, WILL SLINEY, BRUNO OLIVEIRA AND RACHELLE ROSENBERG.

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